

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 01258 181544Z

62
ACTION EUR-12

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R 181443Z FEB 76
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7798

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 1258

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: BGEN, BBAK, AU
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR COMMERCIAL INFORMATION

REF: STATE 037322

1. TO EMBASSY'S BEST KNOWLEDGE, OWNERSHIP OF HIRtenBERGER AG IS ENTIRELY IN PRIVATE HANDS. AN AUSTRIAN DIRECTORY PUBLISHED IN 1973 SHOWS OWNERSHIP TO BE 80 PERCENT BY HUBERT AG, SCHWEIZ (FRITZ MANDL), AND 20PERCENT BY FIRM MASSURHIN OF FRANCE. A 1975 AUSTRIAN DIRECTORY SHOWS FRITZ ERNST MANDL, OF VIENNA, AS PROKURIST (ENDOWED WITH SIGNING AUTHORITY), AND FRITZ MANDL OF BUENOS AIRES AS BOARD CHAIRMAN.

2. BANK SOURCE INFORMED EMBASSY ON FEB 17 THAT, SINCE FIRM IS A CORPORATION (CAPITALIZED SINCE 1957 AT AS 35 MILLION), THE BANK HAS NO WAY OF CONFIRMING OWNERSHIP SHARES. BANK FURTHER INFORMED EMBASSY THAT SITUATION OF HIRtenBERGER AG, WHICH SUFFERED LOSSES IN 1973, IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY IN 1974 AND THAT IT EXPECTED SHOW VERY GRATIFYING PROFITABILITY IN BUSINESS YEAR 1975. FIRM'S PRODUCTION CAPACITY REPORTEDLY WILL BE FULLY UTILIZED OVER EXTENDED PERIOD BY DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ORDERS.

3. FOR BACKGROUND ON FIRM, DEPARTMENT IS REFERRED TO EMBASSY'S WTDR DATED JUNE 1970 ON HIRtenBERGER PATRONEN-, ZUENDHUETSCHEN- UND METALLWARENFABRIK AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT, VIENNA.BUCHANAN

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